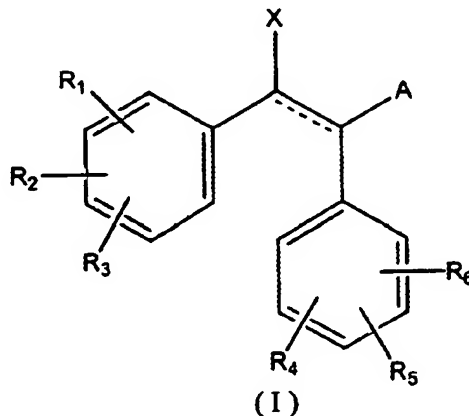


Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula 1:



wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z;

A = -COOR, -CONR'R'', -CN, or -COR₇ wherein R, R', R'' and R₇ are defined below;

X = OH, or C₂-C₁₀ linear or branched alkenyl group, optionally substituted with COOR, carbonyl, or halo;

R = H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

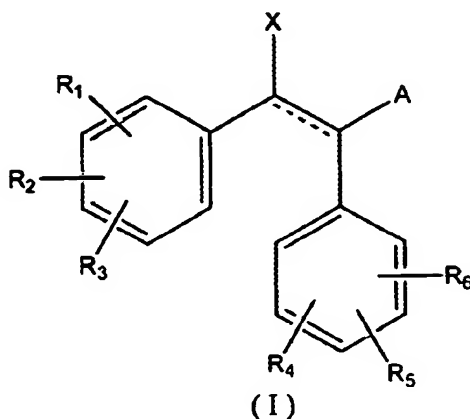
R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, and R₇ are independently H; C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups optionally substituted; COOR where R is as defined previously; NR'R'' or CONR'R'', where R' and R'' may be independently H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO₂; SO₂R''; CZ₃, where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''', where R''' may be H or linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or R₂ and R₃ together, or R₅ and R₆ together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups.

2. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A= -COOR.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A = -COOR; R₃, R₅ and R₆ are H; R₄ is p-hydroxy; and R₁ R₂ together are 3,5-dimethoxy.
5. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is H.
6. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is Na⁺.
7. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₄ is p-hydroxy; R₁ and R₂ together are 3,5-dimethoxy and the dotted line represents a double bond.
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, or a mixture of compounds thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
10. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 9 which is suitable for oral administration.
- 11-13. (Cancelled).
14. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 9, wherein R is H or Na⁺ and said double bond is in the E-configuration.
15. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 9, wherein R is H or Na⁺ and said double bond is in the Z-configuration.

16. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 15, wherein R is Na⁺.
17. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 14, wherein R is Na⁺.
18. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 9, wherein said composition is suitable for oral administration.

19-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula 1:



wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z;

A = -COOR₈ or -CONR'R'', wherein R₈ is C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl or arylalkyl, and R' and R'' are defined below;

X = H, OH, or C₁-C₁₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups, optionally substituted with COOR, carbonyl, or halo, wherein R is H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

~~R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are independently H;~~ R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are independently H; is C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups; COOR where R is as defined previously; NR'R'' or CONR'R'', where R' and R'' may be independently H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy-carbonyl; halo; NO₂; SO₂R'''; CZ₃, where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''', where R''' may be H or linear or branched C₁-C₂₀

alkyl; or R_2 and R_3 together, or R_5 and R_6 together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups;

R_2 and R_3 are independently H; C_1 - C_{20} linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups; COOR where R is as defined previously; $NR'R''$ or $CONR'R''$, where R' and R'' may be independently H or C_1 - C_{20} linear or branched alkyl or aryl; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; C_1 - C_{20} acylamino; C_1 - C_{20} acyloxy; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO_2 ; SO_2R''' ; CZ_3 , where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''' , where R''' may be H or linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; or R_2 and R_3 together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups;

R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are independently H; C_1 - C_{20} linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups; COOR where R is as defined previously; $NR'R''$ or $CONR'R''$, where R' and R'' may be independently H or C_1 - C_{20} linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C_1 - C_{20} acylamino; C_1 - C_{20} acyloxy; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO_2 ; SO_2R''' ; CZ_3 , where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''' , where R''' may be H or linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; or R_5 and R_6 together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups;

or R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are independently C_1 - C_{20} alkanoyl of the form a-COQ group wherein Q represents an alkyl or aryl group.

25. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 24, wherein A is $-CONR'R''$.

26. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24, or a mixture of compounds thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 26 which is suitable for oral administration.

28. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 25, or a mixture of compounds thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 28 which is suitable for oral administration.
30. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 24 wherein A is $-\text{COOR}_8$.
31. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 30, or a mixture of compounds thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
32. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 31 which is suitable for oral administration.
33. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 30 wherein R_8 is a methyl group.
34. (Withdrawn) A compound selected from 3-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-acrylic acid; 3-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-fluoro-p-phenyl)-acrylic acid; 2-(4-acetylamino-phenyl)-3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-acrylic acid or 3-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propionic acid.
35. (New) The compound of claim 30 wherein R_3 , R_5 and R_6 are H; R_4 is 4-hydroxy; and R_1 and R_2 together are 3,5-dimethoxy.
36. (New) The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 , R_5 and R_6 are H; R_4 is 4-hydroxy; and R_1 and R_2 together are 3,5-dimethoxy.
37. (New) The compound of claim 36 wherein X is H and the bond represented by the dotted line is a double bond in the E configuration.

38. (New) The compound of claim 36 wherein X is H and the bond represented by the dotted line is a double bond in the Z configuration.